

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for storing a data block, comprising:
  - storing the data block in a storage pool;
  - obtaining a data block location;
  - calculating a data block checksum for the data block; and
  - storing a first indirect block in the storage pool, wherein the first indirect block comprises the data block location and the data block checksum.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - calculating a first indirect block checksum;
  - obtaining a first indirect block location; and
  - storing a second indirect block in the storage pool, wherein the second indirect block comprises the first indirect block location and the first indirect block checksum.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - assembling the first indirect block.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein assembling the first indirect block comprises:
  - storing the data block checksum in a checksum field in a block pointer in the first indirect block, and
  - storing the data block location in the block pointer, wherein storing the data block location comprises storing a metaslab ID and offset.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
  - storing a birth value in a birth field in the block pointer.
6. The method of claim 3, wherein the first indirect block is assembled using a data management unit.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the storage pool comprises at least one storage device.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the storage pool is divided into a plurality of metaslabs.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein each of the plurality of metaslabs is associated with a metaslab ID.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the data block location comprises the metaslab ID and an offset.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein storing the data block comprises using a storage pool allocator.
12. A method for storing a first data block and a second data block, comprising:
  - storing the first data block and the second data block in a storage pool;
  - obtaining a first data block location and a second data block location;
  - calculating a first data block checksum for the first data block;
  - calculating a second data block checksum for the second data block; and
  - storing an array of block pointers in an indirect block, wherein the array block of pointers comprises,
    - a first block pointer comprising the first data block location and the first data block checksum, and
    - a second block pointer comprising the second data block location and the second data block checksum.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the indirect block is assembled using a data management unit.
14. The method of claim 12, wherein the indirect block is stored using a storage pool allocator.
15. A method for retrieving data in a data block, comprising:
  - obtaining an indirect block comprising a stored checksum and a data block location;
  - obtaining the data block using the data block location;
  - calculating the checksum for the data block to obtain a calculated checksum;

retrieving the data from the data block, if the stored checksum equals the calculated checksum; and

performing an appropriate action, if the stored checksum is not equal to the calculated checksum.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the calculated checksum is calculated using a storage pool allocator.

17. A method for storing and retrieving a data block, comprising:

storing the data block;

obtaining a data block location;

calculating a data block checksum for the data block;

storing a block pointer in an indirect block, wherein the block pointer comprises the data block location and the data block checksum;

obtaining the indirect block comprising the block pointer;

obtaining the data block using the data block location stored in the block pointer;

calculating the checksum for the data block to obtain a calculated checksum;

retrieving data from the data block, if the data block checksum stored in the block pointer equals the calculated checksum; and

performing an appropriate action, if the data block checksum is not equal to the calculated checksum.

18. A system for storing a data block, comprising:

a storage pool comprising the data block and a first indirect block, wherein the first indirect block comprises a data block checksum and a data block location; and

a storage pool allocator configured to store the data block and the first indirect block in the storage pool.

19. The system of claim 18, further comprising:

a second indirect block, comprising a first indirect data block checksum and a first indirect block location,

wherein the storage pool allocator is further configured to store the second indirect block in the storage pool.

20. The system of claim of claim 19, further comprising:
  - a data management unit configured to assemble the first indirect block and request the storage pool allocator to store the first indirect block.
21. The system of claim 20, wherein the storage pool comprises at least one storage device.
22. The system of claim 20, wherein the storage pool is divided into a plurality of metaslabs.
23. The system of claim 22, wherein each of the plurality of metaslabs is associated with a metaslab ID.
24. The system of claim 23, wherein the data block location comprises the metaslab ID and an offset.
25. A computer system for storing a data block, comprising:
  - a processor;
  - a memory;
  - a storage device; and

software instructions stored in the memory for enabling the computer system under control of the processor, to:

  - store the data block in a storage pool;
  - obtain a data block location;
  - calculate a data block checksum for the data block; and
  - store a first indirect block in the storage pool, wherein the first indirect block comprises the data block location and the data block checksum.

26. A network system having a plurality of nodes, comprising:

    a storage pool comprising the data block and a first indirect block, wherein the first indirect block comprises a data block checksum and a data block location; and

    a storage pool allocator configured to store the data block and the first indirect block in the storage pool,

    wherein the storage pool is located on any one of the plurality of nodes, and

    wherein the storage pool allocator is located on any one of the plurality of nodes.